

First Reel.Second Release.Scheduled for release May 1st, 1921.

©CLM 1947

Main title

WILD MEN
OF AFRICA

MAY -7 1921

Paramount-Vanderbergh Exploration Series

No. 2

THE LION KILLERS

Edited and Titled by Tom McNamara

Passed by The National Board of Review

Copyright 1921. Famous Players-Lasky Corporation.

24ft

Subtitle In presenting these motion pictures of savage life in Central Africa we wish to acknowledge the leadership of Dr. L. J. Vanderbergh who directed the Expedition and the skill of Dr. George B. Shattuck who photographed this series. 27"

Dissolves into:

Subtitle	These explorers were at work for more than a year and penetrated to those remote districts first reached by Livingston, Baker and Stanley.	19"
Subtitle	If you are interested in marriage, study this custom.	6"
Subtitle	Each savage owns as many women as he can manage, but before he can marry a new wife, he must build a new hut. So he puts his friends to work cutting reeds.	21"
Scene	Natives cutting down bunches of reeds.	16"
Scene	A number of natives transport the reeds on their heads, through the woods. They cross a rude log bridge.	17"
Scene Subtitle	A circular ditch is dug where the hut is to stand.	7"
Scene	Medium shot of a few village huts. The ground is selected and the men are scooping out a ditch for the foundation. Closeup of a native digging a narrow trench around the foundation. Another general shot of them preparing the ground for the hut.	23"
Subtitle	The walls of the hut are made by planting the reeds firmly into this ditch.	9"

Scene	Natives planting the tall reeds in the ground - they sort them out according to size so that the stockade may be of equal height.	19ft
Subtitle	Perhaps the groom will invite the boys up for dinner after the new wife moves in.	9"
Scene	The hut rapidly takes shape - its circular form is almost completed.	15"
Subtitle	Sometimes these willing friends turn to wilfull enemies. Then they take back their work and down comes the hut.	13"
Scene	Men at work on the hut.	9"
Subtitle	Hoops are next lashed on with coarse grass to support the walls.	8"
Scene	They intertwine the reeds horizontally with more upright reeds.	14"
Subtitle	It begins to look like a barrell.	4"
Scene	The walls are almost complete - the sides bulge out somewhat like a barrel. Men still working on it.	12"
Subtitle	Subtitle. Meanwhile the roof is growing separately close by.	5"
Scene	Three natives building a cone-shaped roof much in our own Indian tepee style. Closeup of the other natives working on the hut proper.	41"
Subtitle	Raising the roof, or lifting the lid, Whichever you prefer.	6"
Scene	A dozen stalwart negros carry the roof along uplifted in the air and place it over the new walls, thus completing the structure of the hut - all that remains is a trimming.	19"
Subtitle	The two stamping gentlemen in the foreground are mixing mud for plaster.	8"
Scene	While most of them are engaged in trimming, some mix the plaster.	5"
Subtitle	A little trimming.	2"
Scene	The men shape the hut and it takes on proper proportions.	24"
Subtitle	When the thatch is finished, the new hut is ready for wife No.10.	8"
Scene	Another shop of natives on the roof, fixing the thatch. They clear the debris away, and begin to cover the framework with rushes.	17"
Subtitle	Not far away, the weather beaten hut of wife No. 9 is spruced up a bit to keep her contented.	12"

Scene	View of another hut - men are sprucing up the thatched roof. A number of reed baskets of various sizes and shapes are strung up on a pole near the hut.	16ft
Subtitle	With a new hut waiting ---- all a man has to do is hand his war spear to a girl. If she takes it, she is due for the fatal leap. There are lots of candidates at the market place.	26"
Scene	Shot of a row of native women lined up at the market place, with baskets of purchases on their heads. They slowly walk off the scene.	18"
Subtitle	They're engaged.	3"
Scene	Fade in on scene of two young natives, a buck and his bride-to-be walking down a wooded path, arm in arm - both carry spear like weapons, presumably for defense against wild animals of which Africa abounds in. The girl is very happy and the couple remind us very much of our own honeymooners.	23"
Subtitle	It is the custom for the girl to wait until after she is engaged to realize that in marriage she is giving up her independence for slavery -- but the man sends his friends after her.	26"
Scene	View of rude log bridge crossing a little stream below the falls. Closeup of the bridge, three men stealthily creeping over it to reach the girl on the other side. Back to long shot of them crossing.	30"
Subtitle	She has given her promise, but still it is the custom to pretend she didn't mean it.	9"
Scene	View of the girl seated on a rock, below the falls - she is reclining and seems to like the solitude - the men creep up noiselessly and seize her - they drag the unwilling girl off the rock - and lead her back to the village over the bridge.	48"
Subtitle	The sister of the girl comes to the rescue, pretending it is all a mistake.	10"
Scene	Closeup of them crossing the log bridge - the sister pleads with them to let the girl go.	10"
Subtitle	The bride-to-be is brought to her future mother-in-law and held prisoner for six days.	12"
Scene	Typical village shot of huts - cattle being driven through the village - the grooms mother waits for their return.	5"
Subtitle	While the prospective groom spends his time visiting at the "club" with his friends pals.	8"
Scene	The groom is seated with his friends around a cheerful fire in a cave - They roast meat on sticks.	31"

Subtitle	At the end of the week, the new wife is released, bent over in token of her future life of servitude.	14ft
Scene	Her mother-in-law leads her out of the hut by a string. The bride is deeply bowed down - and so they leave the hut for the new life. Two stalwart natives watch her depart and howl with glee. Fade out.	7"
Subtitle	In this tribe, warriors dance the Ngoma, while unmarried girls look on and admire. The dancers done spats of clay and scratch on designs with their fingers.	18"
Scene	Closeup of buck painting his legs with white clay.	20"
Subtitle	They are handsome young savages with bodies greased to a dull luster-like bronze.	9"
Scene	A group of bucks, ready for the dance are lined up. They are the finest specimens of the tribe. Their back are to the camera at first - they then face around - they are festooned with many strings of beads, their faces painted.	11"
Subtitle	No young girl will miss one of these dances. They attend in crowds.	9"
Scene	Of the young girls of the tribe on the side lines, waiting expectantly for the dance to commence. They display a hero worship similar to that found in more civilized girls - they are delighted, shy and kittenish. The girls in most instances are as tall as the bucks - panorama effect of the crowds of watchers and then to the warriors with their spears and fantastic war shields.	16"
Subtitle	"Showing off" before the girls.	5"
Scene	The dancers now begin a grand march or presentation and march in regular formation - the front ranks now break into a slight trot, in formation of threes and the line uncoils like a snake. The faces of the dancers are serious - almost in the throes of complete religious ecstasy.	14"
Scene	The line of dancers begin to circle back and then about face and return again, repeating the same contortions - still beating away at their long tom-toms and blowing the shrill whistles.	28"
Subtitle	You will want to keep time with your feet during the next scene.	10"
Scene	A small number of dances now in group formation now perform for the rest - they run forward a short distance - reverse - and then come back again, repeating the movements indefinitely.	23"
Subtitle	Were we right?.	4"
Scene	Shot of the same movements.	16"
Subtitle	Any warrior who has killed a man is allowed to dance by himself.	8"

Scene	One buck with shield and spear stands before the assembly and does a special dance in a wild frenzy - the rest of the dancers join him and then dance back again.	20ft
Subtitle	This is the young ladies special. The only dance in which they are allowed to take part.	12"
Scene	The men with their backs to the camera and facing the girls jump up and down in this dance and seems to clap their hands overhead at intervals.	32"
Subtitle	The real snappy dressers wear rooster feathers in their hair.	8"
Scene	They continue the dance - the bucks wave their arms wildly.	9"
Subtitle	At the finish of the celebration the young bloods put on a sham battle for the admiration of the girls.	16"
Scene	The girls look on as a number of warriors pair off and pretend to do battle - it is a sort of hit and run, affair.	25"

End of Reel 1.

Reel 2.

Second Release.

Subtitle	Making home brew is too much trouble for the old folks -- they jolt their constitutions with strong stuff.	11"
Scene	A very aged man sitting alone on the ground and sniffs the rank snuff.	15"
Subtitle	Kikuyus care little for smoking but a lively exchange goes on in snuff made from rank native tobacco.	12"
Scene	Two natives squatting on the ground as the dealer measures out some stickfuls from the can in exchange for tokens.	20"
Subtitle	Fashion Note: A mixture of castor oil and red clay when dripping down over the shoulders is the last word in class.	18"
Scene	A young woman is out in front of her hut and is busily engaged in beautifying herself - she rubs this mixture into her hair and it drips down over her shoulders - she is smiling.	20"
Subtitle	The African sun is merciless. Young people grease themselves with rancid butter to keep the skin from cracking open.	15"
Scene	Three young girls with bodies freshly greased - they look sleek - and wear an abundance of beads and bracelets on their arms and in their ears.	13"
Subtitle	When they get old and have no one to butter them, they suffer torments.	9"

Scene	A skinny old man scarcely abaa to see or move - wrinkled and aged all over sits helpless on the ground.	16ft
Subtitle	Peaceful as it looks this laske has been the scene of many a bloody battle.	12"
Scene	A peaceful lake, without a ripple. Wooded island in background.	11"
Subtitle	Ordinary canoes are scooped out of immense tree trunks.	8"
Scene	Three canoes on the shore of the lake - several natives launch one of the canoes and paddle away.	44"
Subtitle	A race of war canoes.	4"
Scene	Two large native war canoes. Manned by yelling warriors who battle for supremacy in a neck to neck race down the lake.	20"
Subtitle	The finish!	2"
Scene	The war canoes, one slightly in the lead come back at great speed and as the leaders pile up on the bank, the natives plunge overboard and drag their canoe high and dry.	31"
Subtitle	A village in Masai Land, one hundred miles south of the Kikuyu Country.	8"
Scene	Long shot of a collection of native huts with a clearing in the center - a few people wandering about their tasks.	9"
Subtitle	The huts look like great loaves of bread.-----	6"
Scene	Another shot of the same scene. Huts look like huge baskets and are plastered with cow-dung.	16"
Subtitle	---- but are just huge baskets plastered with cow dung.	6"
Scene	Close view of the village huts, showing the basket weave and the outer coverings.	10"
Subtitle	The women wear wire sleeves and wire stockings. As they never take them off the skin beneath is festered and diseased.	16"
Scene	Native woman standing in front of hut, displaying the wire apparail sleeves and stockings.	13"
Subtitle	The men also go in for wire sleeves.	5"
Scene	One native adjusting wire sleeves on his friend's arm.	16"
Subtitle	When we talked to the favorite brides of the Chief, they became quite kittenish.	8"
Scene	Four women and a young boy standing in front of hut. The women are gaily decorated - they all turn and go into the hut.	29"

Subtitle	The kiddies seemed to take life seriously.	5ft
Scene	Three small boys with staffs in their hands - they face the camera shyly.	13"
Subtitle	Polygamy is practised and the favorite wife is presented with a wire spring by friend husband.	11"
Scene	Two women standing in front of hut - they are decorated with wire coils about their necks and arms.	15"
Subtitle	If we wanted to be facetious we would call this a spring bonnet.	7"
Scene	Woman with wire coil about her neck, bends down and the wire falls about her head and shoulders. She comes up smiling.	20"
Subtitle	A well-to-do man of this tribe wears as much black twine in his hair as would fly a kite a mile.	12"
Scene	Native man shows black twine fastened to his hair and falling below his shoulders.	13"
Subtitle	Blocks of wood are carried in the ear lobes of the common folks.	8"
Scene	Shot of native carrying a block of wood some four inches long in the lobe of his ear. Of course the ear is horribly distorted distorted.	6"
Subtitle	When a man wishes to put on dog, he wears a genuine tin can.	8"
Scene	Shot of another native who carries a real tomatoe-can in the lobe of his ear ear. It takes years before the hole in the ear becomes large enough to accommodate a can of this size.	x8"
Subtitle	The Masai are herdsmen and are in constant warfare with lions & which molest their cattle.	12"
Scene	Small herd of cattle grazing near some trees, tened by natives.	15"
Subtitle	When news of a lion is brought to the Village, the cattle are quickly driven into the corral.-----	12"
Scene	The herd of battle are driven into the corral.	31"
Subtitle	---- and the gateway closed with croocked sticks and thorns -- yet a lion hungry lion will break through this barricade.	12"
Scene	Natives closing the corral gateway with sticks and thorny branches.	26"
Subtitle	A Moran, or Masai hunter. His business in life is lion-killing.	7"
Scene	Masai hunter with spear and shield. He thrusts his spear upright in the ground and lets his shield rest at his feet.	10"
Subtitle	A Moran considers work beneath him. He won't even make his spears or shields.	8"

Scene	Closeup of Moran hunter with spear and shield, standing in front of hut. He turns away and walks off.	5ft
Subtitle	So it's up to the common folks to do the lowly work.	7"
Scene	Two natives of the village are working at a very primitive forge in the ground, fashioning a spear. One operates a bellows made of goat skins.	6"
Subtitle	The spears are seven feet long, and sharpened to a razor edge.	7"
Scene	The two native blacksmiths continue their work, one hammering and shaping the spear and the other works the double goat-skin bellows.	24"
Subtitle	The Masai Chief dons his royal robe of monkey skin and sends for the Morans.	7"
Scene	Shot of the Chief - wearing a long robe fashioned from skins - his three favorite wives await him. The first fastens the robe about him - and the second wife hands him his staff - the wives then depart.	15"
Subtitle	As an ordinary subject would not dare death with a lion, the King is at the mercy of the Morans, and is forced to treat them with deference.	15"
Scene	The king squats on a little stool and greets and shakes hands with the m Morans whom he is viewing before they do battle.	10"
Subtitle	The women all regard the Morans as heroes.	7"
Scene	The Morans stand in line and the women pass by them and shake hands also. As if wishing them -- "Well, good-bye, if I don't see you again."	13"
Subtitle	The Chief informs the head hunter where a lion is supposed to be lurking, and away go the Morans to find him.	15"
Scene	The Chief on his little stool and the head hunter squatting on the ground beside him hold a lively confab.	17"
Subtitle	The kill! ---- Look quickly! The lion is in the center of the screen. He charged at the first click of the camera and the Morans charged to meet him.	23"
Scene	With the Morans on all sides of him, the lion is cornered and crouches ready to spring - he charged and the morans run toward him and hurl their mighty spears at the king of animals - the air is filled with flying spears and the blacks close in about their victim.	8"
Subtitle	The lion looked like a gigantic pin-cushion.	6"

Scene	Closeup of the dead lion with a large number of spears sticking through his body. The Morans now approach him and try to pull out their spears - but some of the spears could not be drawn from the carcass.	35ft
Subtitle	Some spears were thrown with such force that they cut clear through the lion and bent against the hard ground on the other side!	15"
Scene	Several of the hunters stand near the dead lion with their upright spears in their hands. They are indeed proud of their kill and possibly wonder which one reached him first.	10"
Subtitle	The end of a perfect day. The dance of victory.	7"
Scene	The hunters now returned to the village, with their trophy, partake in a victory dance - with their shields above their heads and spears in hand - they yell and dance around the lion.	8"
Scene	A closeup of the dead lion. The spears have been withdrawn - but one spear lies across his side.	6"
Scene	The dance continues about the dead lion. Fade out.	28"
Subtitle	The End. No. 2. Paramount-Vandenberg Wild African Series.	7"

This document is from the Library of Congress
“Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection,
1912-1977”

Collections Summary:

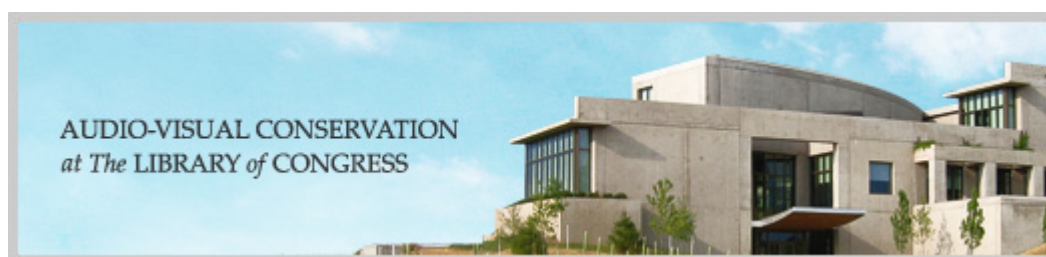
The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004>

Class M Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002>



National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress